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CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 4 AUG 49

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Thailand/Burma

SUBJECT Viet Minh Activities in Kengtung Area

25X1C

ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED] 25X1A

25X1X

1. Le Van Long, commander-in-chief of the Viet Minh in Kengtung, uses the name Nguyen Van Long in that area.
2. Long's headquarters are at Ta-Ki-Lek, the town on the Shan side of the frontier, opposite Mae Sai. Long operates two businesses, partly as legitimate enterprises and partly as a cover for his other activities. One business is a pharmacy with a Burmese name meaning "New Pharmacy". The principal purpose of the pharmacy is not general trade, but rather to supply medicines to the Viet Minh and Lao Issara in Kengtung. Kom, secret chief of the Viet Minh in Bangkok, has visited the pharmacy at least three times since January 1949.
3. Medicinal purchases, including penicillin and emetics, are made in Bangkok by Long's agents, who, at the same time, act as couriers and intelligence agents. Long's principal assistant in this connection is Tran Quanh Oanh, a Vietnamese, who was born at Vientane and educated at the College Pavie, Vientane. He is a member of the Vietnamese Cultural Association. Long's wife and Nguyen Van Lao, 45 years old, formerly an infirmier (male nurse), are among the couriers between the pharmacy and Bangkok.
4. Long's other business is his activity as a building contractor. He conducts this business from his pharmacy. In this capacity, he has built a number of houses and cottages in the Ta-Ki-Lek vicinity, including two houses for rich Chinese refugees from Kunming.
5. Long travels between Ta-Ki-Lek, Mong Lin (20-43, 100-09), and Kengtung town. When in Kengtung, Long usually goes to the house of Ho Quang Tuong**. It is not known whom Long meets at Thong's house, other than the Lao Issara. No Chinese Communists have been reported in Kengtung town.
6. Kengtung police state Tuong's apparent activity in Kengtung consists of buying cheap trade goods, such as matches, umbrellas, shirts, cloth, etc., and selling them in rural districts***.

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Document No. 100-
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
Auth'd: ADA Memo 4 Apr 77
Auth'd: DAA REG- 77/1763

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Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0039000300042

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7. An article recently appeared in Chuan Min Pao, Chinese Communist newspaper in Bangkok, describing the activities of the Chinese Nationalists in Kengtung. The article in question accused Col. CHOU Hsiang-shu****, former Chinese Military Attache in Bangkok, of organizing the remnants of the 93 Division in Kengtung to commit extensive acts of pillage in Burma and Thailand. The article was signed WU Wu (伍 武), but the real author was Long.
8. The article was sent in draft form by Long to Xom in Bangkok. Xom corrected it and arranged for its appearance in Chuan Min Pao. The article was later translated into Thai and appeared in Mahachon, Thai Communist newspaper. A large number of copies of the Chuan Min Pao issue containing the article were sent by Xom to Long, who then arranged for distribution among the Chinese population in Kengtung State. As the Chinese in Kengtung are less popular than the Vietnamese, the Chinese Communist organization is more clandestine than the Viet Minh****. Consequently, in many matters, Long acts for the Chinese Communists.

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25X1X ** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Before going to Kengtung, Tuong and his wife, Nhung, spent four months in Chiengrai studying Mandarin. Most of the population of Kengtung is Yunnanese. They speak a form of Mandarin.

25X1X *** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Tuong's real activity is unknown. He belongs to the Tran Van Giau clique. Despite rivalry between the Van Giau clique and the official Viet Minh, it appears that the two groups are cooperating in Kengtung.

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25X1X ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Some of the factors that point to the great importance attached to the Kengtung activities by the Viet Minh high command are: the fact that the distinguished Can-bo Long is in charge of these activities; the visit in early 1949 of the military mission headed by an equally important Can-bo, Tran Huy Lieu; and the visit in March 1949 of the important Communist Can-bo, Luu Van Loi, ostensibly to bring money.

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